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synonymy and description, and the essential fruit characters of the genera are clearly and accurately figured. In pleasing contrast with the habit of some writers, the authors give a full citation of the material that they have examined in the course of their study — on the satisfactory result of which they are to be congratulated.

Studies of Plant Life¹ is a laboratory guide for high schools, which represents the experience of three Chicago teachers. The twenty-four studies it contains, each consisting of directions and questions regarding easily obtainable material, are intended to supplement the botanical lectures or text-book work of a school year. Part I, made up of seventeen studies, deals mainly with Cryptogams; Part II is devoted to the organs of Spermaphytes and their modifications. Much use is made of the compound microscope and of comparatively inexpensive apparatus. In an appendix are given directions for twenty-four experiments illustrating nutrition, metabolism, growth, and irritability. Following this is an outline of a model field trip showing what may be done in the way of ecological study. At the end of the book comes an analytical key for the determination of one hundred seed plants of northeastern United States, which includes a short synopsis of forty-two families of angiosperms.

The book seems well calculated to direct young students along profitable and interesting lines of work, following present-day methods of teaching the "New Botany."

But few errors have been noticed, and these are for the most part such as any competent teacher may be trusted to correct before they are likely to become a source of trouble to pupils. Special attention should be called to the need of amending the study on seeds and seedlings. Here the most unfortunate misconception is the treatment of the maize kernel as a seed, the funiculus and hilum of which the student is expected to find.

F. L. S.

Notes. — Professor Engler has issued the first of a series of "Ergänzungshefte" to the phanerogamic portion of Engler and Prantl's *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*, containing additions for the years 1897-98. The publication of the regular fascicles of this

¹ Pepoon, Herman S., Mitchell, Walter R., and Maxwell, Fred B. *Studies of Plant Life*, a series of exercises for the study of plants. Boston, D. C. Heath & Co., 1900. 12mo, cloth, xii + 95 pp.